CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of displaying data, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first splice indicator using transport packet demultiplexer hardware;

determining a new packet identifier in response to the first splice indicator;

detecting a second splice indicator using the transport packet demultiplexer hardware; and

using the new packet identifier in response to the second splice indicator.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

loading the new packet identifier into a shadow register after the step of determining and before the step of loading.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of using the new packet identifier further comprises loading the contents of the shadow register into a main register.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of using the new packet identifier further comprises using the shadow register as the main register.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting the first splice indicator includes detecting the first splice indicator using an adaptation field parser portion of the transport packet demultiplexer hardware.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein

the step of detecting the first splice indicator includes the sub step of generating a first splice interrupt based upon the first splice indicator; and

the step of determining a new packet identifier occurs in response to the first splice interrupt.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein

the step of detecting the second splice indicator includes the sub step of generating a second splice interrupt based upon the second splice indicator; and

the step of determining a using the new packet identifier occurs in response to the second splice interrupt.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the first splice indicator and the second splice indicator represent different occurrences of a common event.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the common event is the assertion of a splice flag.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of using the new packet identifier further includes:

determining the new packet identifier when, in response to detecting the first splice indicator it is determined that a first splice state has been encountered, wherein the first splice state is based upon a first splice countdown value parsed by the transport packet demultiplexer hardware.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of determining further includes the first splice countdown value being a positive value.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the step of determining further includes:

using the new packet identifier in response to the second splice indicator, when, in response to detecting the second splice indicator it is determined that a second splice state has been encountered, wherein the second splice state is based upon a second splice countdown value parsed by the transport packet demultiplexer hardware.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of using further includes the second splice countdown value being a zero value.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of determining further includes the first splice countdown value being a positive value.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

detecting a third splice indicator using transport packet demultiplexer hardware;

requesting acquisition of a current program management table in response to the third splice indicator.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of using the new packet identifier further includes:

requesting acquisition of a current program management when, in response to detecting the third splice indicator, it is determined that a third splice state has been encountered, wherein the third splice state is based upon a third splice countdown value parsed by the transport packet demultiplexer hardware.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of determining further includes the first splice countdown value being a negative value.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of verifying the new packet identifier.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein

the step of using the new packet identifier in response to the second splice indicator further includes using the new packet identifier in response to the second splice indicator when the new packet identifier is associated with a first program type.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the first program type is mutually exclusive from a second program type, and the second program type is commercials.

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